

A USER INTERFACE FOR A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a user interface (120) for an ideographic character input device (100) comprising three rows (148, 150, 152) of adjacent input keys. A first row (148) includes keys that represent linear character strokes, a third row (152) includes keys that represent non-linear character strokes, and the second row (154) includes keys that represent a linear character stroke, a non-linear character stroke and a dot. The user interface (120) may also function as a numeric keypad in which the first row (148) includes keys 1 through 3, the second row (150) includes keys 4 through 6 and the third row (152) includes keys 7 through 9. The three rows (148, 150, 152) include single stroke keys corresponding to individual character strokes used to form a particular ideographic character. The user interface also includes at least one combination stroke key corresponding to a particular activation sequence of the single stroke keys used to form the ideographic character. A processor (512) of the device (100) is capable of forming the ideographic character, or a portion thereof, in two ways: upon selection of the particular activation sequence of the single stroke keys and upon selection of the combination stroke key. A display (118) is coupled to the processor (512) to display the ideographic character, or a portion thereof.